


House of Bright Light

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2011 Moscow State University of Electronics, Radiotechnics and Automation; Moscow Biennale parallel program



Light projections and multichannel sound installation
Site-specific

The installation opened as a part of the Moscow Biennale parallel program: its dates fitted perfectly with the academic year of the university I had finished in 2008.

Visiting it for five years and observing how the space of Soviet modernist architecture with typical sparse planning was shrinking: the glass areas were decreasing, infrastructure was degrading, and distant buildings were eventually closed, it was clear that lesser and lesser light and air inside and outside of the complex would be remaining. I found myself thinking from time to time about the necessity to restore a part of the building and the views from its windows. The final plan was to set a temporary area with the reconstruction of sunrays flux as when it was years ago. We all know sunlight is essential to the modernist feel.

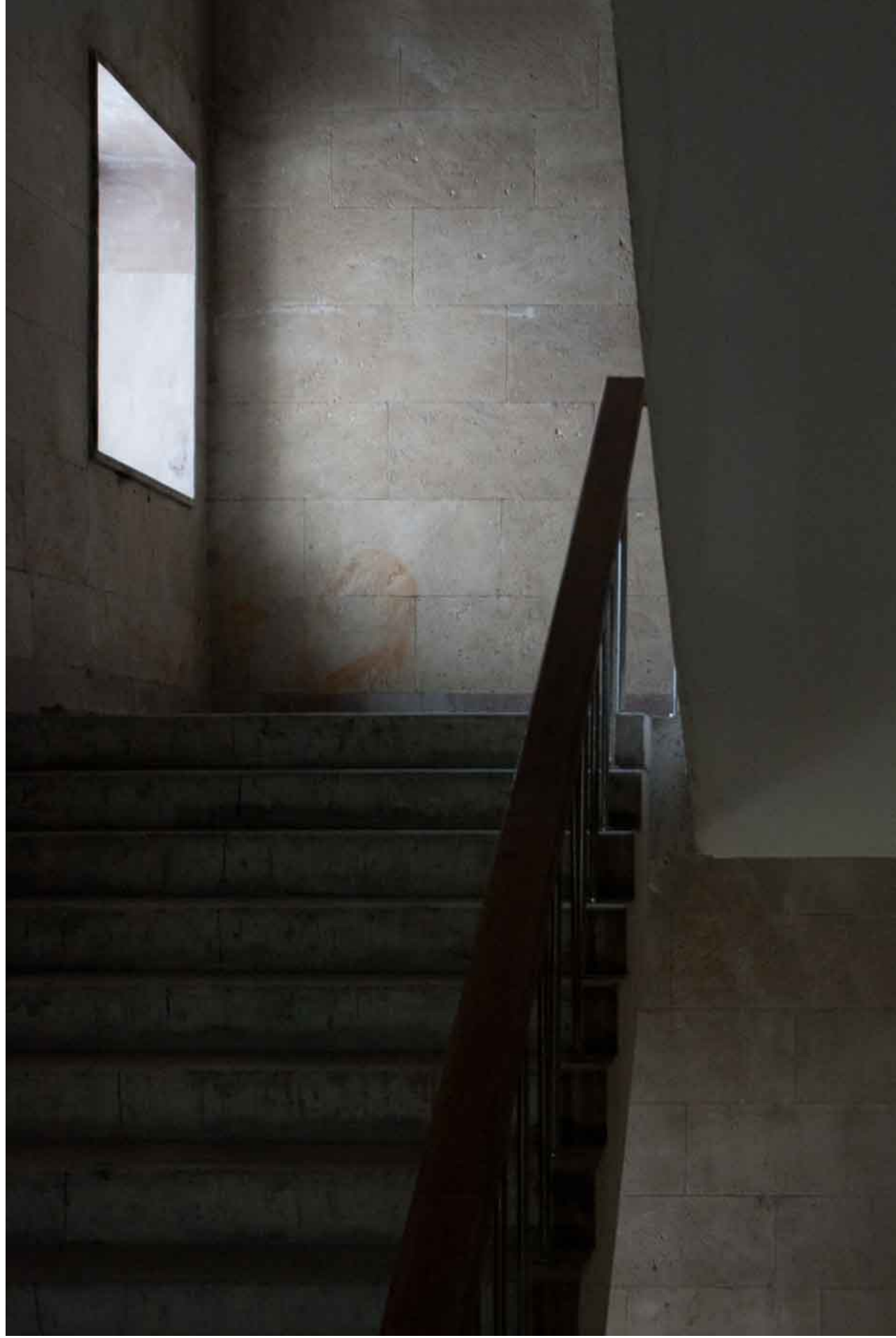
The situation seemed like coming to an end as a faceless educational center was refurbished with cheap plastic materials hiding original architectural elements. Windows were shielded from the sun by a chain of new blocks of flats.

As a place for restoration, one floor of the building then closed for students’ attendance (named under “E” index) with adjacent stairs was chosen. Initially, it served as a university dining hall, and the selected floor was half-empty by that time. Brick walls and sheet metal blocked all windows from direct light.

Artificial sunlight was re-created using powerful metal-halide spotlights and dispersion filters that were installed inside the building to cover its broken windows.

Hidden loudspeakers were set up to reproduce sounds of steps and voices usually presented there.

Visitors could find the place with the help of maps posted in the social network group dedicated to the 4th Biennale (Vkontakte.ru social network, now renamed to vk.com) <https://vk.com/club30041854>.



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